COME BACK AS ALAYE

Success Akpojotor

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Come Back As Alaye

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If you pay money for dis book, dem don run you street.
Dis book na free to read and you fit share am.

But you nor go fit change am
You nor go fit sell am for money

You fit perform am but you must let me know fess.
Evritin inside dis book na Pidgin.

Tenkiu!

If you dey speak Pidgin, dis book na for you!

You go see sontin.

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1

Come Back As Alaye

If you look around, you go see sontin
You go see say we don forget many tins
Me sef no remember di time
But I know say dem neva born anybody for here before dat time.
Look inside your history teacher eye, you go see di answer.
Say dat time some bad belle people go hire babalawo
And di babalawo get one simple job description – Give ‘èpè to di people of God
But many people pay because God nor go ever gree. Even animals open mouth.

Before dat time – you remember? Some yeye people sell dia blood
And one agbaya woman wan chop 17 year old boy, imagine!
She wan turn di boy to bread; if only she know say di bread of life neva come
Kiri kiri nor break dis pesin, e become di prime minister

But wait!

Look inside your pastor eye, you go remember di time when dead man bones
Dey bring pesin whey don kpai back to life. You think am. Dat tin make sense?
E fit nor make sense to you but e go make sense because nor be you be di writer
Di writer sidon for Zion, dey write. Dey laff. Dey decide escape route for you and me.

Imagine dis now. Say you get 13-year-old daughter. She fine. She fine. She fine.
You get plans to send am go Havard or Yale or MIT. But she come back from school–
And wetin you see na kasala and Gobe. She don sick and doctor say she get belle.
Which kain joke be dis? Wetin be dis. God abeg! But God whey you dey beg naim dey
Write di story.

How she go get belle? For who? As as how? She say nobody. Say she neva know man.
You shock. How? Who be di bastard? Shhh, nor be bastard oh. Nor let dem hear you.
But bandits don hear you, and di bandits don come with dia stone, dem go stone dis
Thirteen year old girl until she off. Why she go get belle when she neva marry? But na here
pesin carry am from dis bandit dem BECAUSE di belle when she get nor be biology. Nor
Be yeye. Nor be pesin. Na God.

Abi you never hear? What God cannot do, does not exist. It does not exist. It does not exist. Na God dey put pikins dem inside woman, and dat time when we nor know, he don put savior inside
you. Young girl, dat baby when you go born naim go save you and save everybody and
anybody whey agree say di Writer whey sidon gidigba for UP there naim do di deed.

Bandits nor go ever gree say God do di deed, dem wan kill di baby. Yes I agree, Herod na
bandit and if you nor believe, you be bandit because bandit come to do only one thing –
To thief, to kpai, and to cause katakata. But dis baby when dem born don save us
and he go come back as ALAYE and dem nor born you well if you be bandit.

2

Argue With Your Papa

You dey tell me say I nor sabi speak English
But you hear wetin I talk
You dey look me like say I be di fowl spirit whey
Escape from di fowl whey you dey kill and chop every Sunday
Every day you dey find excuse to koret my English

Problem long like Challenge Road for Ibadan but na my English consign you
Di solution whey I bring nor make sense because you
Believe say I nor sabi speak English
But you understand me, You understand me. You understand me
You nor go fit swear Ogun say you nor know wetin I talk.

You don kill many dreams like cockroach because of phoney abi na phonetics
But even Jezebel nor do reach dis one.
She nor even sabi speak English

BUT WAIT!

Why you want make I speak English like you?
Why you want change my accent to be like you?
You even set exam for me and say I must pass before you go gimme food chop?
You don forget say di first language whey God speak nor be English?
You don forget? Na my mouth you want for hear am?

Oh! You dey argue? You want koret me again?
Argue with your papa. Leave me abeg.
You troway solution because di score whey I get for your exam nor reach?
Still on still, e be like you don forget —
you dey shout one tin for church every Sunday.
Make I remind you? You don forget? OF COURSE!
Ha-le-lu-YAH

3

Just Dey Play

Zakaya delaba zanarego
Ruta layan diza maza jranaba
Zutalata mitadalazaya zeragabazal
You dey hear yourself? Na so you be.
Na wetin you pray for church yesterday be dat.
I sidon for back but na ministers corner you sidon.

I dey laff.
So you dey speak in tongues on Sunday
But on Monday you want finish me. You wan turn me to efo, vegetable.
You think say I want your position? El Roi forbid!
I nor fit do wetin you dey do.
You dey lick yansh upandan to sidon for dat office.
You dey carry story left right and middle.
I nor go fit.

You dey rage-bait me. You never see fine man before?
I forgive you but try forgive yourself because dat office whey

you wan kill me for,
Many people don sidon there and you nor go be di last
Some blow chalk, some drink viper water, some break kola nut
But you dey put olive oil and tongues — ratata mazana, zigi zaga, zaga zogo
Repent because all di juniors whey you
don pursue from here don forgive you but you just dey play

4

You Go Collect Woto Woto

She sidon under ring light, paint face, wear wig
She wan teach us how to make money
She wan school us on how to do investment
She say make we save, save, and save
But last time, di money whey dem save nor fit save dem.

She say make we nor pray for money, say
God nor dey print money, but Yeshua say
make we beg God for bread every day. She
say money get principles and prayer nor dey
give money but Ehyeh asher Ehyeh say na Him
dey give manpower to human being to get money and all good tins.
So make we still nor pray? You mean am?

You say money nor dey heaven but Elohim say make
we bring one-tenth into di house of YAH
But she go still argue say one-tenth nor be money but
Caesar dey collect one-tenth. Tinubu dey collect one-tenth.

Trump dey collect one-tenth. Tusk dey collect one-tenth.
Chairmen dem dey collect one-tenth.

You see dis pattern:
Na ehyeh asher ehyeh first accept one-tenth.
Infat naim create one-tenth, so
Whether you agree or not, pesin go collect your one-tenth.

So if you want get money, na prayer plus principle
Because currency na spirit — and how else you want take
invoke spirit if your eyes nor clear? Baba, your eyes go clear.
And if you nor wise, you go collect woto woto join.

5

Werey Dey Disguise

We nor dey see egg buy for Shasha market because of you
Milk don cost for Bodija market because of you
Fear nor let us buy protein shake again because we nor reach
You don drive us comot from inside gym because
We hear say you don book all di session
Only you want use all di equipment
Only you don hire all di trainers

PAUSE

Look inside mirror: you don turn wetin I nor know
Everybody dey fear you because with one wave
all of Agbowo go shake as you don turn to Samson
And no church suppose let you near dem because
you fit push di pillar and foundation fall for dia head

PRESS PLAY

You see yasef? You nor like anybody whey dey watch

Keeping Up With di Kardashians
You even dey forbid to cook, you say na woman job be dat
You don burn all your pink shirt
You say blue na your favorite color but
Blue dey make you sick. Blue nor dey switch you on.
Who do you dis tin?
Na your village people abi na you?

STOP

Your papa die for 2011, you say you nor go cry
Say you be man. You say how man go cry?
You don forget say Jesus wept because of man?
But you dey fall our hand.
You know wetin angels dey call you?
Werey dey disguise!

6

God Abeg

Baba, I don come again. Make we gist.
I nor want yarn dust. Make I first say
Siyabonga. Siyabonga. Siyabonga.
For my life. My life. My life. Because
where I for dey laidis? I nor know but you
know all di variables.

People for use me play ten-ten like Laban
Because we nor know who dey mad
Everybody wear shirt but nor be everybody get wardrobe.

You remember dat time when Jacob follow
You hold ground and You come change him
name to Israel. You remember wetin Laban do am?
My question nor need answer. Who
I be to ask you question?

Laban dey change am for everybody.

Laban be like Balaam. Dem dey see far.
Dem even dey see people glory as dem
Wan use people glory take crown dia own glory.

Nor let me see Laban or Balaam again.
Deliver us from di ones whey don write our
names for dia stock book. Laban dey ask me:
"Who do you think you are?"
On top my own glory?
God abeg. God abeg. God abeg

7

Who Noble Epp?

My laff dey be like cry sometimes because
Na laff I laff but water gather for my eyes
And my eyes don read like say I take monkey tail
Who say na noble profession? To write chalk for wall abi na board
Dem even say dia reward dey heaven. Dia fada!

Make am make sense.
You go teach engineer and doctor and lawyer
and president and princess and actress
But your reward dey heaven? LOL
Who put di reward for heaven?

Explain to me:
which noble profession dey write lesson note?
Your reward dey heaven but people whey you teach —dia reward dey here.
You see dis tin? Dem don do ojoro

Wetin dey noble about paper work?
Wetin dey noble about lesson plan upandan like werey?
Di World Greatest teacher nor do lesson plan
Abi Yeshua submit lesson plan to you?
Abi you nor understand all Him parables?

Tell me wetin dey noble about your job?
Before you answer:
All your students say e go beta make dem go kiri kiri than to be tisha.
So wetin dey noble? Who noble epp?

8

Nor Gree For Anybody

You remember when we confess love to each oda?
Sigh. Smiles.
I know say you go read dis poem because
you never give up even sake of say you don marry.
I don move on.

Love nor be beans.
All those sleepless nights and argument and hug.
How you go love pesin still want hide am from him people?
I happy say you don find your own
Because our two na water and oil.
I dey talk Trump and economics, you dey ansa me with brain rot
with TikTok skit. Haba!

I wan tell you tenkiu.
You show me all wetin I nor want.
You teach me say make I nor cover myself
make I nor gree for anybody

9

Your Excellency

You feel say God dey call you? Not
Man of God calling o. Di call to come
sidon inside Aso Rock so dat you go fit
epp your fellow Nigerians. So dat you go
Fit change many tins for gud. So dat
we go dey call you Madam President or
Mr President? Do wetin I talk:

Always dey prepare for midnite meeting,
Your phone fit ring around twelf
Say ABC or XYZ chairman dey town.
Like dis you don become witch whey no get coven
And make you try dey baff for nite too because
Sometimes you fit nor get chance to baff for
tiri days or one week

Big ogas dem expect say you suppose know dem wella.
Anywhere you see dem:

Agree to anything whey dem talk.
Nor do pass yourself o. Show dem say
You be di winner of kneeling competition
Because you go kneel down and dem like
You when dem tall pass you for public

Nor dey do cho cho cho
Bola fit tell you say Nwankwo na ode
If you agree say Nwankwo na didinrin
Bola go sideline you because if you fit call
Nwankwo didinrin for Bola eye
You go fit call Bola ndiala for Nwankwo house

I take God beg you
Nor call out anybody for social media
Dem fit be president tomorrow and
your own don finish.
Dem fit give you èpè. All wetin you go dey see
na election period.
You go nearly win but you nor go win.

For dis game, accept say you be ode
You see dat your PhD, e gbagbe. Forget am
You be di people servant. Public servant.
Poshness nor go epp you. Speak broken English with us.

You see all di agbero, dem be your broda
Market women? All of dem na your mama
You must ready buy dem abula, anytime

You nor get opinion again.

You see dat your mind, keep am to yasef
Everybody na your broda and sista
wheda dem dey go Israel or Mecca
Wheda dem dey swear Ogun
No one consign you.
Wheda dem dey swallow smoke or vomit beer
e nor consign you
Wetin consign you na dia thumb print

Nor carry talk whey heavy for mouth
Wetin consign you with racism and gender dysphoria for naija?
Our problem na security, electricity, free education, good road.
You see an?

Di only crime whey you must not commit
na poverty
Because how you wan take get votes if
you nor fit feed people? Explain to me.

Try get your side hustle and main hustle
Because you nor go be presido forever.
Try dey read too.
You're welcome Your Excellency

10

Na only God

My history teachers don try explain di world to me
I pass di exam but I nor understand
Di world don fight hesef two times and if we fight again,
God fit nor see our dust to gather
We dey at peace now but dis peace
na di one whey dey bring war
Di war inside our head
We dey ask awasef whether we normal
But na only God fit save us.
Amen.

About the Author

Success Akpojotor na writer. E like peace. E nor support violence.

You can connect with me on:

https://www.sadavidia.com